

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "forming a one piece pad being long enough to surround the waist, the belt being fixed on the outside of the back border. Support for this claim is provided on page 5, lines 3-12 of the PCT amended sheet and as shown in FIGS. 1-3. The pad has a clepsydra (water clock) shape. Contrary thereto the device of *Gipson* is a detachable two-piece garment (column 1, lines 59-60 and column 2, lines 28-29) which has a reusable belt and a disposable assembly.

Claim 1 has been further amended to delete the claim to the dense small points which form perforations in the semi-belts. This structure has been recited in new claim 6. The applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position on the points and the perforations. The applicant contends that the hook material engage the openings in the receiving material but do not form perforations as shown in FIGS. 2 and 8. "Velcro" type materials do not form perforations which did not previously exist.

Claim 7 is a new claim dependent on amended claim 1 which recites the back border being coterminous or extending above the belt. Support for this structure is found on amended sheet page 5, line 16 and FIGS. 1-4. In this manner, the belt does not contact the wearer. In the device of *Gipson*, the belt 12 is above the pad 28/30 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 3. Column 3, lines 33-34 discloses the belt being non-irritating to the skin of the wearer confirming the belt extending above the pad.

It is submitted that the cited reference does not describe all of the features of the claimed invention and allowance of independent claim 1 and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is respectfully requested.

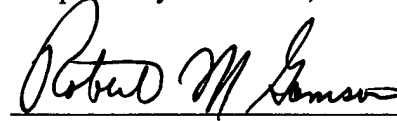
It appears that all matters have been addressed satisfactorily, and that the case is now in condition for a complete allowance; and the same is respectfully urged.

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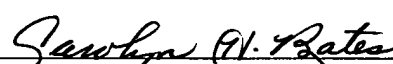
However, if the Examiner has any comments or questions, or has any suggestions as per MPEP 707.07 (d) and (j), for putting the case in condition for final allowance, he is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned attorney-of-record at the telephone number below, so that an expeditious resolution may be effected and the case passed to issue promptly.

April 10, 2008
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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<p>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMITTAL</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p>Date: April 10, 2008 Express Mail No. EB755354205US</p> <p>By:  Carolyn H. Bates</p>

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